

Cambridge

Dec. 31st 1853.

Dear Professor Hyatt:

The enclosed note is self explanatory but I venture to add a word to urge you, if it be possible, to comply with Mr. Evans' request.

The 'Aves Hawaiianis' is a beautiful and very ably written book and I should consider that the slight risk involved in sending the bird to England ought not to count against the great desirability of having the point at issue definitely settled.

There can be no doubt
whatever that Mr. Evans
will take good care of the
specimen and return it
promptly.

Very sincerely

William Brewster.

Perhaps it would be as
well, however, to send the
bird to Professor Newton.

145 BRATTLE STREET,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

Nov. 28, 1891.

My dear Hyatt;

My ear drum (of the left ear) was burst (not perforated) in 1870 by blowing forcibly through a tube, the portion closed up completely afterwards but a fragment of the membrane of the drum became attached to one of the laminae better bones(?) that in another ^{very} year the drum, ~~that~~ after this happened ~~to~~ ^{found} was communicated directly to this receiving bone(?) instead of across an intermediate air space. The ear was very sensitive for awhile & for many years would receive sounds of a higher nature or of a higher number of vibrations while an ordinary ear would take no note of. Dr. Allen. Black is my

authority for the above but his
examination was made many years
ago & I very much doubt the
thing perfectly thought in my country
was a strange I believe that it
is substantially so. Within the
last ten years this faculty
of the ear has probably given out
& I cannot now hear so well
with it as with the right ear.
When it was at its best no one
of my best men could
begin to equal me in hearing
& discriminating the separate
notes.

Further that this will
show the greatest difference
between I remain
Sincerely
Wm Brewster.

Nov.28, 1900.

My dear Hyatt,

My ear drum (of the left ear) was burst (not perforated) in 1870 by blowing forcibly through a tube. The fracture closed up completely afterwards but a fragment of the membrane of the drum became attached to one of the sensitive little bones(?) that lie within and very near the drum. After this happened sounds were communicated directly to this receiving bone(?) instead of across an intermediate air space. The ear was very sensitive for a while and for many years would record sounds of a slight nature or of a high number of vibrations which an ordinary ear would take no note of. Dr.Clarence Blake is my authority for the above but his examination was made many years ago and I may not have the thing perfectly straight in my memory now, although I believe that it is substantially so. Within the past ten years this favorite left ear has partially given out and I cannot now hear so well with it as with the right ear. When it was at its best no one of my bird men friends could begin to equal me in hearing and discriminating the slightest bird notes.

Trusting that this will answer your questions sufficiently fully, I remain,

Sincerely,

(signed) William Brewster.

145 BRATTLE STREET,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

December 23rd 1900

I am truly sorry
that this matter
has occurred but I think it should be
settled as an outright
purchase from the
Boston Society

regarding the
matter. I have
written you
Hyatt,

At the time of buying from
Wayward the birds supposed
to be the type of Nelson's
plates & description I called
Boulton's attention to them
and told him that I thought
they ought to go back into
the possession of the Boston Society
adding that should the Society
wish to recover them I should
feel it my duty to let them
go. He expressed strong disbelief
in them being Nelson's type
but promised to think the
matter over and to make

future investigations. When Mr. Stone
was here last month he examined
the birds and pronounced them
to be almost without question
Wilson's "types". Arthur Briggs
thinks that Wayward has a
few more which are also "types".
I would suggest that steps be
at once taken to recover the
lot. As for the specimens in
my possession it will give
me real pleasure to restore
them to the Society but I
shall give Peabody the
opportunity to personally reimburse
me for the money I paid
viz. about \$2.50 per bird. I may
possibly retain one of the specimens
during my lifetime as an example
of Peabody's interesting handwriting
arranging to have it go back to
the Society at my death.

Cambridge, December 23, 1900.

Dear Hyatt,

At the time of buying from Maynard the birds supposed to be the types of Wilson's plates and descriptions I called Batchelder's attention to them and told him that I thought they ought to go back into the possession of the Boston Society adding that should the Society wish to recover them I should feel it my duty to let them go. He expressed strong disbelief in their being Wilson's types but promised to think the matter over and to make further investigations. When Witmer Stone was here last month he examined the birds and pronounced them to be almost without question Wilson's "types." Outram Bangs thinks that Maynard has a few more which are also "types." I would suggest that steps be at once taken to recover the latter. As for the specimens in my possession it will give me real pleasure to restore them to the Society but I shall give Batchelder the opportunity to personally reimburse me for the money I paid, viz. about \$2.50 per bird. I may possibly retain one of the specimens during my lifetime as an example of ^{or} Perle's interesting handiwork, arranging to have it go back to the Society at my death. I am truly sorry both for the Society's and Batchelder's sake that this matter has occurred but I think it should be regarded as an oversight merely.

Yours sincerely,

(signed)

William Brewster.

145 BRATTLE STREET,
CAMBRIDGE, MASS.

December 28th 1900.

My dear Hyatt;

Thinking over the matter of those supposed Wilson "types" which the Society involuntarily sold to Mr. Maynard & which I afterwards purchased of him I have come to the following conclusions: -

- (1) That while I have an undoubted technical or legal right to these birds the moral right to their possession lies with the Society.
- (2) Feeling thus I stand ready to restore them to the Society on this condition viz. that I first receive your official & formal assurance that as soon as may be the specimens will be put in good order, placed in a suitable

moth-proof case or cabinet and
plainly and definitely labeled as
different types of Wilson's Ptarmigan
descriptions with a condensed statement
of the evidence on which this
assumption is based. Inasmuch
as a large part of the interest &
value attaching to them depends
on the preservation of their characteristic
attitudes and style of mounting
the process of renovation should not
go beyond the mending or otherwise
restoring broken necks, wings, legs etc.
and a careful cleaning of plumage.
The specimens should then be either
replaced on wooden stands a card to
the number of an artificial tax. They
should be kept in a case apart by
themselves with any birds which there
are equally good reasons to regard
as Wilson "types" and which may be
found among the Ptarmigan birds still in
the family's possession or received
from those sold to Mr. Maynard.
I have in all fifteen of these

Hilson - Pearl birds. One - a Glossy Ibis - I wish to
retain - at least for the present - as an example of
Pearl's interesting handiwork in taxidermy. The other fifteen
specimens will be delivered by my assistant Mr. Deane
to any person authorized by the Society to look and
remove them to its rooms as soon as the Society
has given us its assurance that the conditions above
defined will be duly complied with.

Yours sincerely
William Brewster

To / Professor Alphonso Hyatt,
Custodian Boston Society of Natural History.

I shall give Mr. Bateholder the opportunity to
personally compensate you for the expense connected
with the acquisition, from Mr. Maynard, of these
birds but I cannot accept such compensation either
from the funds of the Society or from any other
one of its officers.

Cambridge, December 28th, 1900.

My dear Hyatt,

Thinking over the matter of those supposed Wilson "types" which the Society inadvertently sold to Mr. Maynard and which I afterwards purchased of him, I have come to the following conclusions:- (1) That while I have an undoubted technical or legal right to these birds, the moral right to their possession lies with the Society. (2) Feeling thus, I stand ready to restore them to the Society on this condition; viz., that I first receive your official and formal assurance that as soon as may be the specimens will be put in good order, placed in a suitable moth-proof case or cabinet and plainly and definitely labeled as supposed types of Wilson's plates and descriptions with a condensed statement of the evidence on which this assumption is based. Inasmuch as a large part of the interest and value attaching to them depends on the preservation of their characteristic attitudes and style of mounting, the process of renovation should not go beyond the mending or otherwise restoring broken necks, wings, legs, etc., and a careful cleaning of plumage. The specimens should then be either replaced on wooden stands or wired to the branches of an artificial tree. They should be kept in a case apart by themselves with any birds which there are equally good reasons to regard as Wilson "types" and which may be found among the Peale birds still in the Society's possession or recovered from those sold to Mr. Maynard. I have in all sixteen of these Wilson-Peale birds. One - a Glossy Ibis - I wish to retain - at least for the present - as an example of Peale's interesting handiwork in taxidermy. The other fifteen specimens will be delivered by my assistant Mr. Deane to any person authorized by the Society to pack and remove them to its rooms as soon as the Society has given us its assurance that the condi-

tions above defined will be duly complied with.

Yours sincerely,

(signed) William Brewster.

To Professor Alpheus Hyatt,

Custodian Boston Society of Natural History.

I shall give Mr. Batchelder the opportunity to personally compensate me for the expense connected with the acquisition, from Mr. Maynard, of these birds, but I cannot accept such compensation either from the funds of the Society or from any other one of its officers.

Bethel, Maine,

January 4th 1901.

My dear Sir:

The proposition contained
in your letter of January 1st
to the effect that my approval
of the measures to be taken for
the "Storage & preservation" of
the Wilson eggs "be considered
a necessary part of the donation"
is satisfactory to me and
I will write to Mr. Deane by
this mail instructing him to
hold the birds subject to
your orders.

Yours sincerely,

William Brewster

To/ Professor Alpheus Hyatt
Curator B. S. N. H.

Bethel, Maine

January 4th 1881.

Dear Hyatt;

Your proposition seems
to come in in a general
way so I have signified my
formal acceptance of it. I
will repeat here what I said
in my first letter, however,
that I consider it of the
utmost importance that these
Hudson - Pease beds be preserved
as unmounted specimens. Any
attempt to turn them into skins
would detract immensely from their
present & future value & interest.
I sincerely trust that their
return to the Society will
put an end to the criticism

which you mention.

Yours sincerely

William Brewster.